

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 ORM-01 SR-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

EB-07 COME-00 /077 W

----- 051130

O R 031228Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 728

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KE, TZ

SUBJECT: KENYA RE-OPENS BORDER

REF: NAIROBI 010796 AND PREVIOUS

1. AFTER 17 DAY CLOSURE, KENYA HAS RE-OPENED ITS SOUTHERN BORDERS TO ALL NORMAL TRAFFIC TO AND FROM TANZANIA, INCLUDING RAILWAY AND PASSENGER BUS SERVICES. LAKE TRANSPORT BETWEEN KISUMU AND MWANZA IN TANZANIA HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN RESUMED. AIR TRAFFIC NEVER AFFECTED.

2. ACCORDING OFFICIAL SOURCES, WHAT APPEARED CONCILIATORY KENYAN MOVE TAKEN BECAUSE QTE RECENT OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA IN KENYA IS NOW CONTAINED. UNQTE

3. THIS MORNING JAN. 3 BOTH NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED RESTORATION OF BORDER TRAFFIC WITH ABSENCE OF USUAL RANCOROUS STATEMENTS ABOUT TANZANIAN SPITE AND SELFISHNESS.

BEAMING PICTURE OF COAST PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER ELIUD

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MAHIHU, WHO HAD BEEN GOK'S HEAVY IN DISPUTE, SEEMED TO

PRESAGE ERA OF AT LEAST SLIGHTLY BETTER FEELING. OFFICIAL TANZANIAN SOURCE QUOTED AS SAYING KEYAN ACTION WOULD NOW ALLOW TANZANIA TO ACCEPT LUSAKA'S CALL FOR SECOND ROUND OF TRIPARTITE TALKS. KENYA'S KENATCO ORGANIZATION AND SUB-CONTRACTORS AGAIN REPORTEDLY PERMITTED TO OPERATE IN TANZANIA BUT MUST OBSERVE 18.5 TON LIMITATION ON TRUCKS USING NORTHERN HIGHWAYS.

4. COMMENT: WHETHER TRUCE HOLDS UP MAY DEPEND IN PART ON SKILL ZAMBIAN MEDIATION DURING NEXT TRIPARTITE TALKS WHOSE DATE UNCERTAIN. PRINCIPAL ISSUES SEEM TO BE PERSERVATION TANZANIAN ROADS, UTILIZATION TANZAN RAILROAD, SAFEGUARDING OF KENYAN TRUCK EARNINGS, AND ZAMBIAN ACCESS TO EFFICIENT KENATCO HAULAGE TO AND FROM MOMBASA. WHILE KENYA QTE GAVE IN UNQTE THIS TIME, PROBABLY ON SOUND TACTICAL GROUNDS, KENYA HAS UNDOUBTEDLY REACHED SURFEIT WITH TANZANIAN MORALIZING ON KENYAN CORRUPTION AND WILL BE NO PUSHOVER DURING COMING TALKS IF IN FACT THEY COME OFF. GIVEN RESIDUAL ACRIMONY BETWEEN TWO DISPUTANTS, ZAMBIA MAY BE IN USEFUL POSITION PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN RESTORING EAST AFRICAN HARMONY.
MARSHALL

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